

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 94

By Baird

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Reverend Ralph Cordell upon receiving the South Campbell County Rotary "Citizen of the Year" Award for 2007.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those venerable persons who, through their great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and remarkable faith, strive to enrich the lives of the people in their respective communities and who have thus distinguished themselves as community and religious leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ralph Cordell, recipient of the South Campbell County Rotary "Citizen of the Year" Award for 2007, is one such extraordinary person, whose life and ministry affirm his commitment to the principles of faith, perseverance, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, ordained into gospel ministry at the age of 23 on July 2, 1944, Reverend Cordell served as a pastor for several years, faithfully shepherding the Big Creek Gap Baptist Church and the Calvary Baptist Church, both in LaFollette; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with these congregations, Reverend Cordell also served as the Director of Missions for the Campbell County Baptist Association from 1960 to 1991; he is recognized for holding the record of attending 55 consecutive annual meetings of the Campbell County Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Cordell does not consider himself above any vocational or cultural estate; in addition to his work as a minister, he has also worked as a coal miner and as a carpenter; he considers his greatest accomplishment in ministry to be the many Bible schools he directed for the small churches in the mountainous regions of Campbell County; and

WHEREAS, thirsty to gain knowledge that he might impart to his flock, Reverend Cordell has pursued studies at Carson Newman College and the Southwestern Theological Seminary;

at last count, he was reading the Bible from cover to cover for the 96th time and believes that he learns something new each time he reads it; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Reverend Cordell is most grateful for the love and companionship that he shares with his devoted wife of over 61 years, the former Mary Helen Grant, who joined him in his call to ministry upon their marriage in 1945; their joyous union has produced 6 children, 14 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that one does not retire from ministry, Reverend Cordell continues to be an inspiration to the patients, nurses, and workers at the St. Mary's Health and Rehabilitation Center where he is currently a resident; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Reverend Cordell for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Reverend Ralph Cordell for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as a religious leader and pastor, congratulate him upon receiving the South Campbell County Rotary "Citizen of the Year" Award for 2007, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.